## Who is Eligible?

- Plea agreements stipulating to probation where the Court determines that the Veterans Court is an appropriate term of probation;
- Deviation requests seeking placement in the Veterans Court that are agreed to by Maricopa County Attorney as a possible term of probation;
- 3) Settlement Conferences with judicial officers assigned to the veteran calendar (Vet1 & Vet2) who are familiar with Veterans Court unique issues impacting many veterans in the criminal justice system that result in the parties agreeing to the Veterans Court as a possible term of probation.
- 4) Recommendations from the Adult Probation Department (APD) recommending Veterans Court as a term of probation, including recommendations for individuals who are currently on probation but who are not currently in the Veterans Court.
- 5) Referrals from others in the criminal justice system, Veterans community, or treatment providers.

Let's honor our military, The men and women who serve, Whose dedication to our country Does not falter, halt or swerve. Let's respect them for their courage; They're ready to do what's right To keep America safe, So we can sleep better at night. Let's support and defend our soldiers, Whose hardships are brutal and cruel, Whose discipline we can't imagine, Who follow each order and rule. Here's to those who choose to be warriors And their helpers good and true: They're fighting for American values; They're fighting for me and you.

By Joanna Fuchs

# **Maricopa County Veterans Court Contact Information**

Catherine Soileau, Veteran's Court Coordinator soileauc@mail.maricopa.gov

Penny Miller, Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist Penny.Miller2@va.gov

Tiffany Grissom, MCAPD Supervisor Veterans Court tigrisso@apd.maricopa.gov



## SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA IN MARICOPA COUNTY

#### **VETERANS COURT**



Leave No Veteran Behind

Veterans Court hearings are conducted every Thursday PM before Commissioner Spencer

# **Mission Statement**

The Maricopa County Superior Court Veteran's Court is an inter-agency, collaborative effort focused on Veterans in the criminal justice system. We are guided by the principles of accountability, compassion, evidence-based practices and deliberate justice. We promote these principles by working together to provide the necessary services to address the complex issues presented by the Veteran population, by providing a support system and adhering to a court process that addresses recovery, resiliency and rehabilitation.



## **What is Veterans Court?**

The Superior Court Veterans Court was founded in 2011 in order to address the growing number of veterans involved in the criminal justice system. This court is a "problem-solving" court, which uses a collaborative approach to criminal justice proceedings. The Court works in conjunction with the County Attorney Office, defense counsel, RBHA, Veteran Mentors, and the Veterans Administration to give each participant the best change of getting back on track as a healthy, productive Veteran and citizen.

# **Veterans Court is**

- An opportunity for Veteran Offenders to work with the VA, Court, and probation to obtain resources in order to complete probation successfully.
- An opportunity for warrant status offenders to become compliant.
- Staffing/calendar will include representatives from the following groups:
  - o Probation
  - Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care
  - Veteran Affairs
  - Arizona Department of Veteran Services
  - o Public Defender

# **Goals of Veterans Court:**

- Early identification of Veterans in the justice system.
- Provide one integrated Veterans Court to address Veteran issues in the justice system.
- Establish a collaboration of City, County, State, Federal and Community Stakeholders to foster effective sharing of information and collaborative decision-making.
- Reduce Veteran recidivism and increase the number of Veterans receiving access to services.
- Strengthen our Community by engaging Veterans in services.
- Assist Veterans/Probationers to successfully complete probation.

